

I was appalled to learn of Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force its stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary just days before the election. This is the best evident possible of the imminent dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. One of the most significant responsibilities of the FCC is to ensure that the public interest is served.

When larger and larger companies -- like Sinclair -- control the airwaves, the public gets whatever these media conglomerates want to broadcast. Their decisions are based on their self-interests-- promoting their political views and increasing their profits. We do not get the balanced, local news that is essential to maintaining an educated electorate. We do not get what we need to ensure the future of our democracy. We need to see real people giving us thoughtful, substantive news about issues that matter in our local communities, as well as in our nation.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process must involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you for taking seriously the feedback of citizens across the country. Thank you for doing your job to protect the public interest from those whose only interest is self-interest.